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## Foreign Economic Cooperation of Russia and Kazakhstan: from history to the present

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### Abstract

**Subject/topic.** Russia and Kazakhstan are countries that have close partner political and economic relations in different formats: the EAEU and the Customs Union, as well as the CSTO and the CIS. Russia and Kazakhstan have a common market, there is no customs border, goods, services, labor can move freely, but, despite this external openness, a number of problems associated with the current economic and political situation have not been resolved. The article analyzes the trends in foreign trade between the two countries, and also highlights the main problems in the field of foreign economic cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan. The relevance of the research topic is due to the fact that in 2017-2018. There is a discrepancy between the economic and political lines of development of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which negatively affects the external economic, political and cultural ties of Russia. **Goals/Objectives.** The purpose of this article is to study the historical and contemporary aspects of bilateral relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. As well as identifying factors affecting the strengthening of economic and political inequality between Russia and Kazakhstan, which adversely affects the historically long-term relations between the countries, which, in turn, adversely affects both foreign trade and sociocultural exchange. **Methodology.** The methodological basis of this article is the literature on the topic of research, as well as open analytical materials. Research methods are general scientific methods of analysis and synthesis. **Results.** In this article, the authors conclude that the solution of a number of problems arising in the process of foreign economic cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan lies in the formation of a supranational institution of agents of economic diplomacy. Such an institution will ensure the coherence of the interests of political diplomats and business circles and may also provide the basis for developing recommendations in the field of coordination of the most important directions of strategic development of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. **Conclusions/Relevance.** A study of the historical and contemporary aspects of bilateral relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, made it possible to draw the following conclusions: First, Russia and Kazakhstan, despite the negative historical aspects of joint development, were able to form a single and relatively efficient economic space, taking advantage of the cooperation created during the Soviet era; Secondly, Kazakhstan needs more development of bilateral economic relations (including within the framework of a single customs space), more so than Russia, since it depends on foreign trade with the Russian Federation (Russia holds leading positions in export and import in Kazakhstan); Thirdly, Russia, which is under foreign political and foreign economic pressure from European countries and the United States, needs support from the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as countries joining the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Union. **Application.** The findings and research results can be used to solve problems related to the current economic and political situation in the world and in the EAEU countries as a whole.

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**Keywords:** *Russia, Kazakhstan, the Customs Union, the Eurasian Economic Union, foreign trade, investment, foreign policy, economic diplomacy*

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